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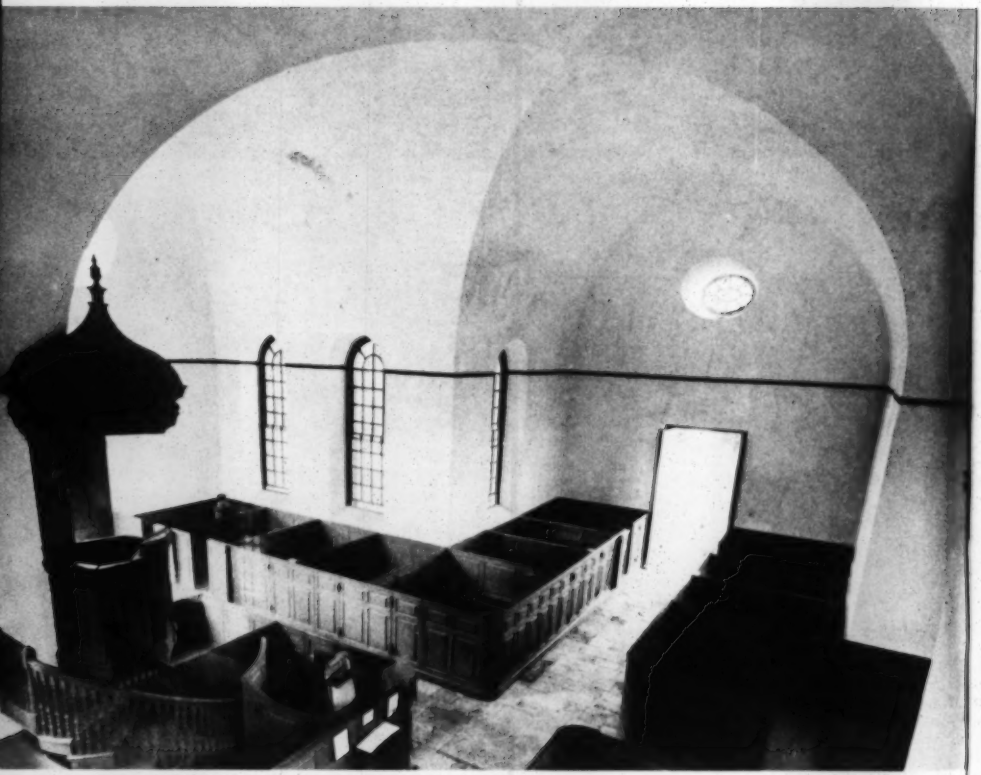
Christ Church, 1732, Lancaster County, Va.

National Trust for Historic Preservation



Interior of Christ Church. Original pews and pulpit; Purbeck stone floor.

VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 4 • 1959

Historic Preservation

Published by the
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
2000 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

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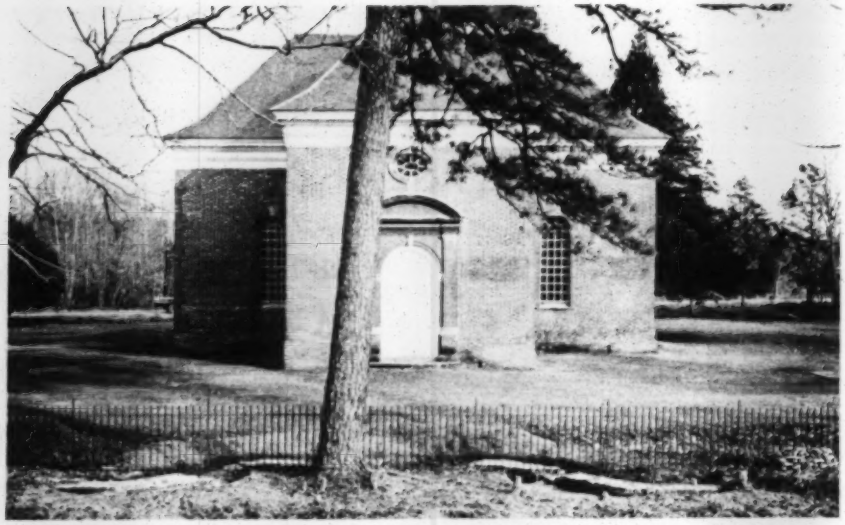
Subscription is included in annual dues of members (associate $5.00, active $10.00, contributing $25.00, sustaining $100.00 or more) and member organizations ($25.00). Special subscription rate for libraries only is $2.00 per year. Application for entrance as second class matter made April 24, 1952, at Washington, D. C.

Published quarterly
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

President: Richard H. Howland
Editor: Helen Duprey Bullock
Managing Editor: Terry Brust Morton
Business Manager: Katherine Gessford



West and canonical entrance. Excavated foundation of original S-shaped wall indicates the principal entrance to the church.

Christ Church Excavations

Archaeological explorations of the original churchyard wall at Christ Church, Lancaster, Va., were conducted in October under the direction of J. C. Harrington, regional chief of interpretation, Region One, National Park Service, at the invitation of the Foundation for Historic Christ Church, a Trust member organization. The group is engaged in a long-range program to preserve the famous Northern Neck church which has survived since 1732 without major alteration or modernization.

Uncovered by the crew of five laborers working under archaeologist Harrington's direction were the footings of the original brick wall which once enclosed the churchyard, but which had disappeared, according to the court records of the county, as long ago as 1836. The wall found was two bricks thick, laid in slightly irregular Flemish bond starting at the bottom with a header course. Numerous moulded coping bricks were found in the ground and saved, which were more elaborate than those commonly found in Virginia. The major discovery, however, was of an S-curved wall that established that the original, and major, architectural entrance on the west conformed to canonical tradition. Other evidence in the ground indicated that the north entrance, a minor one at the time of the church's erection and now serving as the principal entrance, had done so for more than a century.

In platting the excavations, city engineer Charles H. Pierson of Fredericksburg reported that in almost 800 feet of wall foundations there is scarcely any variation, indicating that the finished wall that was erected upon them must

have been held to an exceedingly small tolerance for error throughout its length.

Architectural historians agree that Christ Church ranks with the greatest of the churches of colonial America, and among the surviving colonial churches is unique in being virtually intact, little changed from that day in 1732 when it came from the hands of its master builders.

Robert "King" Carter, of *Corotoman*, one of the wealthiest of American colonists, who at his death left 300,000 acres of land, 1,000 slaves and £10,000, built this church at his own expense. He reserved a large pew for his own family and required that one-fourth of the church be reserved for use of his tenants and servants. By this circumstance, when the church was disestablished during the Revolution, instead of being sold, it was permitted to revert to the Carter heirs. In their custody, by a special agreement, recorded in April 1836, the "Protestant Episcopal inhabitants of the Parish of Christ Church" were permitted to use the property as a place of public worship.

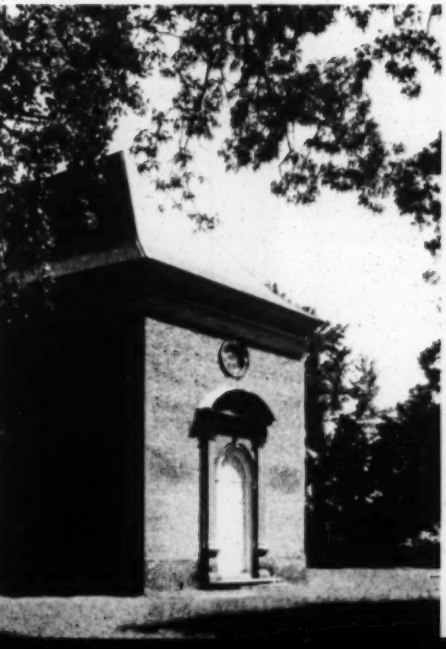
Archaeologist J. C. Harrington of National Park Service and C. A. G. Dawe, secretary of Foundation for Historic Christ Church, examine the newly excavated churchyard wall foundation.

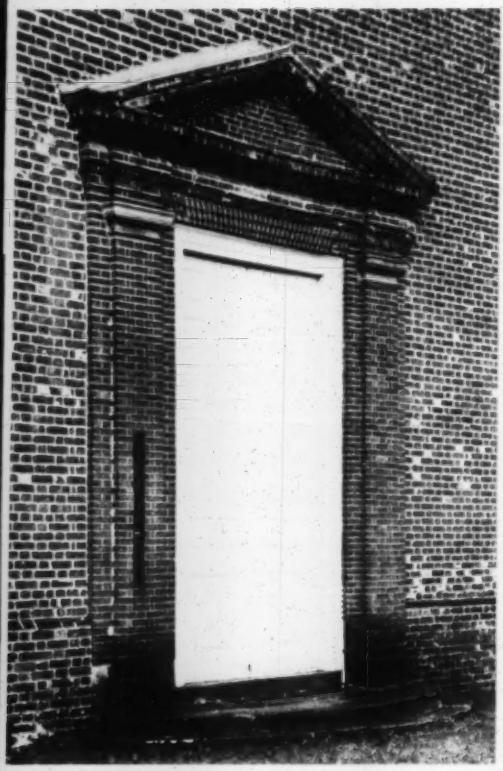
The family's protection, the isolation of the church, the fact that it was not invaded during the Civil War, or by what old residents of the Northern Neck refer to as "the second Yankee invasion," has resulted in the church remaining very much as it was in the days when the Carter family occupied its most prominent pew. The handsome marble tomb outside the church where Robert is buried near his two wives was damaged by vandals hoping to find treasure. These superb examples of sepulchral art have been restored. Bishop Meade described them in 1838 as "the largest, richest and heaviest in the United States." At Carter's death there was a lengthy and eulogistic sermon at the great church he had erected, but some less fervent member of the congregation scribbled in chalk beside the pompous Latin inscription on his tomb:

Here lies Robin, but not Robin Hood,
Here lies Robin that never was good
Here lies Robin that God has forsaken
Here lies Robin the Devil has taken.

This is an understatement of the course of history for from the children of his marriages with Judith Armistead and Elizabeth Landon came some of the most distinguished descendants—three

Detail of west entrance. The heavy walnut doors are painted on the exterior.





Detail of north entrance door, used for more than a century, revealing elaboration of skillful brick and stone work. The iron reinforcement shows where the structure was temporarily stabilized in 1932.

signers of the Declaration of Independence, two presidents of the United States, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court White, eight governors of Virginia, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and many other leaders of the state and nation. Each year in June, usually on the third Sunday of Epiphany, a homecoming service is held at the church attended not only by local residents but by representatives of the Carter family throughout the country.

Since the church, still in its original state, lacks heat and lighting, it is used only during the summer months. At last year's homecoming the formation of a Christ Church Foundation was announced, together with a long-range plan for restoration of this great architectural monument and its return to an active church.

Dr. Elizabeth Coleman of the University of Virginia has searched county and church archives and other sources of data in assembling a documentary history of Christ Church, which was used by Mr. Harrington in the archaeological investigation. Frederick D. Nichols, A.I.A., of the University of Virginia will serve as architect.

Architecturally the building has a number of outstanding features. It is of traditionally cruciform construction, with equilateral chancel and transepts and longer nave. However, the great height of the side walls produces a definite vertical effect in contrast to the usual Virginia pattern of horizontal character. The steep-hipped roof has a curious pagoda-like quality, with its sharply splayed eaves. It is locally known as a "taunt" roof, an obscure nautical term surviving from the seventeenth century. Within the church the white-plastered ceiling forms a high barrel vault, which is plaster-coated on the roof side, anticipating by some centuries a type of shell construction, and affording such a degree of protection to ceiling and framing timbers that after two and a half centuries they still remain in sound condition.

The high box pews are original with the exception of several that were removed and reproduced after extensive termite damage created the need for reconditioning in 1932. They have paneled sides and were of painted pine, and the doors still retain their original wrought iron hardware. The lofty pulpit has a curved stair with scrolled

brackets and turned balusters. The clerk's enclosure below is enriched with pilasters. The hexagonal sounding board, sheathed with walnut and inlaid with pine, is bracketed out from a paneled pier fixed to the southeast angle of the crossing walls.

The late Thomas Tileston Waterman in commenting on the unusual height of the side walls observed, "Here, however, the additional height was used to allow the creating of a great range of fine arched windows and three superb entrance doors. The walls are an example of Virginia brickwork at its best. Probably made nearby, the bricks have unusually good color, shape, and texture, and are evenly laid in Flemish bond. The brick mouldings are richly moulded, gauged, and rubbed; the stonework is elaborately worked, and all the woodwork of the great doors, though now painted, is of walnut. In the field of the three materials and crafts, Christ Church is unrivaled in American architecture and is on par with fine English work of the period."

The Foundation for Historic Christ Church is headed by Ennols A. Stephens as president; C. A. G. Dawe is the secretary. On October 1, 1959, it opened a membership campaign to enlist those interested in the authentic restoration of the structure.

The church is a startling sight to those traveling the piney barrens of Tidewater Virginia, looming up at a small crossroads with a few cedars, remnants of a once handsome lane that framed the approach to the church from the nearby creek. Only the Carter tombs, broken and repaired, and tombs of the Kelley family who sustained the church in the nineteenth century remain in the acre of churchyard. Other tombstones were carried away to serve as cabin doorsteps and well frames.

In an era when this section was "too poor to paint and too proud to whitewash" Christ Church escaped the fate of being Gothicized that befell other churches in more settled and prosperous areas. Elsewhere old crown glass windows were replaced with bad stained glass, the high box pews were discarded for seried ranks of Victorian pews with the ends ornamented with lancets and quatrefoils, and brass replaced venerable walnut communion rails.

The Foundation plans a restoration that will retain and strengthen the magnificent church erected by "King" Carter and bring it back to year-round use. Heating, lighting, perhaps even air conditioning, will be introduced with a minimum of impingement upon the architectural integrity of the structure. The original communicants who sat through three-hour long sermons in the cold of winter could detect little visible change, but their less rugged descendants will in future centuries worship in greater comfort surrounded by the superb original architecture that characterizes one of colonial America's greatest churches.

—H. D. B.

One of the Carter tombs at the eastern end of the church.

Walden Fund

In a world of sputniks, luniks, beatniks, and existentialists, the National Trust found one person (anonymous) who would like to spend a little time contemplating the world of the transcendentalists. To this end, the National Trust has become administrator of a fund of $10,000, a capital sum, the income of which is to be devoted to its educational program.

In presenting her gift to the Trustees prior to the annual meeting in October, the donor wrote, "I have in mind primarily short courses or seminars or other means of encouraging public participation in historic preservation; the use of the income to be left to the discretion of the Trust. I would like this Fund to be open to anyone's contributions, and I feel that with publicity from the Trust this Fund would come to be very substantially endowed in time. I would hope to add to it over the years. Should your Trustees find merit in my proposal, I would ask two favors of you. The first, that I remain an anonymous donor—as anonymous as it is possible to be—and secondly, that the Fund be called *The Walden Fund.*"

Contributions to *The Walden Fund* of the National Trust, like those to any of its projects, are tax deductible.

1960 ANNUAL MEETING

October 21 through 23 have been named as the dates for the 1960 annual meeting of the National Trust. To be held in Pittsburgh, Pa., the meeting will have its headquarters at the new Pittsburgh-Hilton Hotel. Registration blanks and programs will be mailed to all members and member organizations in the late summer. Please reserve the dates.

HISTORICAL ADMINISTRATORS

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Colonial Williamsburg, and the American Association for State and Local History announce the second Seminar for Historical Administrators, to be held in Williamsburg, Va., from June 13 through July 22, 1960. Twelve fellowships with a stipend of $450 each shall be awarded.

The program is designed to introduce selected graduate students to the challenging opportunities available to them in the rapidly expanding field of historical administration. It will provide intensive training for those interested in careers as administrators of historic houses, museums, restorations, historical societies, and national and state historic sites and parks.

The course of study will consider such problems as the evaluation, analysis, and development of resources for successful restoration and reconstruction programs. The planning of interpretive techniques through the installation of exhibits and through other media will be considered. Administrative problems and programs of finance, public relations, publications, and trustee relationships will be studied.

It is anticipated that the morning seminars, to be conducted by visiting authorities, as well as by the personnel of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Colonial Williamsburg, and the American Association for State and Local History, will be co-ordinated with afternoon laboratory training using the facilities that Williamsburg affords. In addition, field trips to museums, historic houses and sites, in Jamestown, Newport News, Yorktown, Richmond, along the James River, and other areas will familiarize the student with actual programs in progress. Students will also be given actual case histories to solve.

Fellowships are open to graduate students with one year of graduate training, or its equivalent, in American history, American studies, American art and architectural history, or allied fields. Students participating in the Seminar will be known as "National Trust Fellows."

A maximum of six auditors already working in the field will be admitted to the Seminar at their own expense.

March 1, 1960, is the closing date for filing applications. Announcements of awards will be made April 1, 1960. For application blanks and further information, write to the Co-ordinator, Seminar for Historical Administrators, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Lillie Moore House, Roseburg, Ore., has been given a new site since it was reported in Volume 11, No. 2, 1959, that the house was doomed despite desperate efforts of the Douglas County Historical Society. The 101-year-old structure was moved from downtown Roseburg and floated across the South Umpqua River on pontoons to its new eight-acre tract. The house and its lot were willed by Miss Moore to the federal government and then sold to businessmen for a parking lot. Protest from the Historical Society followed, with the result that the Society was eventually allowed to buy the house if it were removed from the site.

New York state and county historians joined Nassau county officials at the October opening of one of Long Island's oldest remaining common schools in Manhasset Valley Park. The fully restored and refurnished building was the one-room school house of the Manhasset Valley School District, constructed in 1826. The school had an average of 25 students, an annual budget of $80, and was built for approximately $400. It is a typical shingled frame building, utilizing sturdy, hand-hewn beams held by wooden pegs with hand-wrought hardware and square cut nails throughout. The restoration duplicated original features wherever possible, including the use of original glass of the period in the pegged window sash. Wainscoting with hand-cut moulding covered the lower portion of the walls, which were plastered with two coats, one a rough hair coat and a second, finer finish layer. The shutter hardware is typical of the area, duplicating that of several other North Shore houses of the period.

The Southern Appalachian Historical Association officially opened its museum in August with the dedication of the Tatum Cabin at Boone, N. C. The cabin was presented to the Association by L. T. Tatum, a descendant of the Revolutionary War captain who built it. It will serve as the nucleus of a museum to show pioneer life, ways, and relics of the Daniel Boone era. The cabin, in excellent state of preservation, was moved 15 miles to its new location.

Union County Historical Society recently opened its first museum at Marysville, Ohio, in a nineteenth-century house left to the Society six years ago. The museum is filled with items of early county and state history, including a chair which was hand-carved for Noah Orr, one-time Marysville giant who traveled in contrasting company with Tom Thumb. Orr was a hero to local children who contributed pennies to finance the chair. He was eight feet tall and weighed 550 pounds. Wearing high-heeled boots and dressed in military uniform with high-plumed hat, he presented an over-all height of nine feet.

A survivor of early days in New Jersey, the Old School House at Mount Holly was built 200 years ago, in 1759, and rededicated recently by the National Society of Colonial Dames. The

Society accepted the building as a historic trust in 1951 and has sponsored and financed the restoration. Twenty-one inhabitants of Mount Holly built the school house and bought shares to pay for it. The building was used continuously as a school through the first quarter of the twentieth century, most recently as an overflow room for the public school system.

Engine Company Fifteen's Victorian firehouse, San Francisco, Calif., will be saved. The Pioneer Society is working on plans to move it — crenelations, quatrefoils, turrets, and all — to the Maritime Museum area, for all to admire for years to come. This will also insure immortality for the fire chiefs whose faces now peer out as gargoyles on the downspouts. The 1880 structure was to have been discarded and replaced by a modern building, as reported in Volume 10, No. 2, 1958.

Representatives of the Smithsonian Institution bought one room from the wreckers of the Harral-Wheeler Mansion, Bridgeport, Conn., carefully taking down the beautiful ceiling and woodwork after scaffolding had been built meticulously for its removal all in one piece. The room will be rebuilt in Washington, D. C., as a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture from the designs of Alexander Jackson Davis. The house, willed to the city for a library by industrialist-philanthropist Archer C. Wheeler, was destroyed despite valiant efforts of the Bridgeport Historical Society. The fact that the Society succeeded in raising $157,000 in pledges and contributions to endow the structure was ignored.

Historic Charleston

Historic Charleston Foundation, with a view to rehabilitating the neighborhood, purchased nine pieces of property —at a cost of approximately $99,000— in the Society-Anson Street area of Charleston, S. C. "The core of our plan," states Ben Scott Whaley, president of the organization, "is area rehabilitation—not just preservation or restoration of individual buildings. We plan extensive renovation of some of the houses ourselves, and thereby hope to encourage further private investment in the area."

Eight of the properties contain early nineteenth-century houses of distinct architectural value. The other is a modern structure in poor condition, which will be razed for improvement of the others. The properties were bought with funds contributed by the public to the Foundation's revolving fund, which it administers as a non-profit corporation. Under the terms of the fund, all property purchased is available "for immediate resale" to buyers whose plans are acceptable to the Foundation's board. Already the first resale has been made. The Thomas Doughty House, which had been divided into multiple unit apartments, has been purchased by a young couple who have completed its restoration and are making it their home. The sale of this house has released funds for further purchase.

The Society-Anson street area, in the eastern section of the city between Meeting and East Bay, is bordered by several city blocks of predominantly early dwellings. In pre-Civil War times, the district ranked among the city's handsomest residential areas. Since then it has steadily declined in condition and appearance. Many houses have been converted into low-income rental property. Since the fire of 1838, which destroyed many of the buildings,

the area has not been severely hit by disaster, and twentieth-century commercial encroachments largely have been limited to the East Bay and Meeting streets borders. For this reason, historians and architects long have regarded the area—roughly bounded on the north by George Street and on the south by Hasell—as one of Charleston's richest remaining concentrations of early architecture.

The land was originally granted to Isaac Mazyck about 1700 and came into the possession of Capt. George Anson in 1746. Captain Anson had been stationed in Charleston as commanding officer of HMS *Squirrel* and HMS *Scarborough*. Later he accomplished a celebrated circumnavigation of the globe in HMS *Centurion*, acquired great wealth, and was made an admiral and a baron. When Ansonborough was laid out, it was named for the admiral and his ships. Anson Street and George Street are the only two names which have survived. By 1763 the property had been split and sold to individuals and was the location of many fine houses. Most of the structures purchased by the Foundation are of the early nineteenth century but others are dated as early as 1760. Although some of the houses in old Ansonborough and similar early "subdivisions" are owned by persons of means, little has been spent to renovate many of the old houses because of the prevailing slum atmosphere.

The houses will be sold to persons who promise to restore them under Foundation auspices or they will be renovated by the Foundation and then sold. Some will be offered as rental units. The emphasis, however, will be placed on single family dwellings in an effort to force the establishment of a substantial neighborhood.

Under the concept of "preservation in terms of a living community," the Foundation acquired a revolving fund of more than $100,000 through grants and fund-raising activities. Funds regained through resale and rentals will be held for the purchase of property to expand this area and in additional old areas of the city. Another local and national appeal for contributions to the revolving fund will be made on the basis of accomplishments in the Society-Anson area, the first step taken under the plan.

Historic Charleston Foundation was established in 1947 for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the value of historically or architecturally significant buildings to the community. As a source of income the Foundation has conducted annual spring tours of early houses. Pamphlets describing the buildings were issued, together with other informative material. In 1955 the Foundation purchased the Nathaniel Russell House at 51 Meeting Street as its headquarters. It is an example of the Adam influence on American architectural design. Money for this was raised through a community-wide movement, which in 10 days matched a large gift already pledged by the Richardson Foundation. This house is keep open year round as a house museum.

Interior of the 1811 Nathaniel Russell House.

Looking to the New Year

The National Trust reports quarterly, in this periodical, a good deal of news of its affiliated organizations concerned with various preservation and restoration projects. The Trust reveals comparatively little of its own activities, except by inference that we have played a large part in aiding the causes of others.

The Annual Report of the chairman gives a summary of the Trust's accomplishments, the state of its properties, and a review of major developments. But many of our members have asked, in effect, what goes on at headquarters as a matter of daily or weekly routine.

A staff of twelve, including all of our professional, secretarial, and fiscal personnel, spends long and exciting days in five small rooms in a modern downtown office building, completely devoid of historic or architectural significance. No antiquarian ambiance distracts the staff from the preservation problems of others.

No day's or week's pattern is exactly like another. However, the morning mail is apt to direct the course of the first few hours. A very great deal of the Trust's activity is conducted by correspondence. In the last 12-month period approximately 7,000 letters were composed and sent out; these do not include form letters, membership renewal notices, or similar routine items. Last January the *Reader's Digest* carried an article about the National Trust's activities, entitled "Wanton Disregard of Our Heritage." This brought the story of the Trust to millions of Americans, 800 of whom wrote to us as a result of that single article. To those who did not read carefully that we are not a fund-giving, but rather a public service, fund-raising, organization, we were asked to grant not less than $14 million to support everything from miniature circuses to a "national shrine" to be erected at the Tomb of An Unknown Slave. So many historic properties were offered to us for sale that we could have devoted full time to the real estate business.

Most of the letters, however, received as the result of the *Reader's Digest* article, as well as the bulk of the mail in general, concern serious proposals, appeals for help for worthwhile causes, and news of structures destroyed or, more happily, saved.

The 7,000 letters of last year reached correspondents in 48 states; only South Dakota and Utah seemed to have no queries and reported no problems. Twenty-five foreign countries received correspondence concerning the preservation of antiquities. Much went to our professional colleagues in England, relating to the English National Trust's summer school at Attingham Park. But Mallorca, Southern Rhodesia, Uruguay, Lebanon, Japan, and other far away places also have groups or individuals concerned with historic preservation, whom we advise. Our foreign friends as well as our fellow-countrymen received professional advice on a great variety of subjects, ranging from local fund-raising (we distribute freely a brochure entitled "On Seeking Foundation Support," written by a philanthropic foundation executive) to preservation by legislation at the local or state level (with help from the monograph, *Preservation of Historic Districts*, John Codman's major contribu- to the newly developing interest in historic zoning laws, and Jacob Morrison's invaluable *Historic Preservation Law.*)

Much correspondence concerns the Trust's expanding educational programs, not only the six-weeks' summer school for training historic sites administrators, conducted jointly with Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., and the

American Association for State and Local History, but also the increasing number of regional preservation seminars that the Trust is sponsoring and encouraging.

Many letters of course concern the six properties of the National Trust. These houses, four of which are open to the public (Woodlawn Plantation, Decatur House, the Wayside Inn, and Monterey's Casa Amesti), are our proud responsibility; the actual management and direction of each property, however, is under the leadership of a committee of volunteers, the chairman of which is appointed by the Trust's Executive Committee. Many letters arrive offering buildings to the Trust, usually as gifts. Most of these kind offers must be tactfully declined when it is revealed that the properties lack architectural or historical significance as defined by our criteria, or an adequate endowment, or both!

The headquarters office is increasingly becoming a visitors' center for out-of-town members, who frequently drop in, with or without appointment, to discuss their particular projects or concerns. We welcome these callers, and only regret that the days are not long enough to spend as much time with them as we would wish.

Lectures, talks, and consultations with groups outside of Washington occupy some of the time and energy of the senior staff members, often on weekends when trips away from the office can be more easily arranged. Forty to fifty out-of-town talks or consultations per year are the average for each of the three senior professional members of the staff. Conferences in and around metropolitan Washington, on preservation activities, are far more numerous.

Many of our friends ask how we can help save a fine old building, if we cannot allocate financial aid. Here is one instance: last month a stranger walked into the office with a report from a friend in a remote township of western New York that one of the town's fine old Greek Revival houses would be torn down, needlessly, for a new school site. The Trust sent out investigators to determine the structure's historic or architectural worth; we have members in various communities who can report for us, but we rely primarily on a well-organized group of professional architects, called Preservation Officers, of which one is elected by every local chapter of the American Institute of Architects. After learning that this particular structure has great merit, the Trust sent strong letters to the members of the local school board, the local newspaper, and the superintendent of schools. In essence the letters stressed the importance of the architecture of the building for that section of the state, pointed out the positive values of preservation in enhancing not only the beauty but the economy of the town, and urged serious re-consideration of the proposed site for the new school building. The prestige of the Trust as an objective observer with a national stature may have persuaded the recipients of the letters and the readers of the newspaper's editorial, inspired by our letter to the editor, to change their plans for the new school and thus save the building. We know that the salvation of many structures has been secured in this way, although the local citizenry does not always react so sympathetically.

Aggregates of modest buildings, not particularly important individually but significant as contributing to the character and worth of a neighborhood, are saved by historic zoning. The encouragement of this kind of legislation is one of the Trust's earnest recommendations to citizens' groups and individuals.

Scores of fine old structures are preserved in today's economy by the

(*Continued on p.* 150)

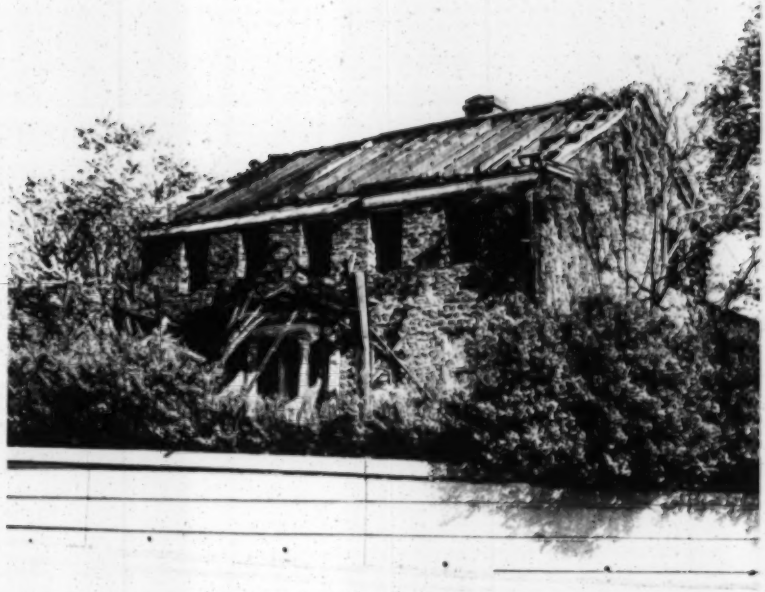
DESTRUCTION

Newport, R. I. St. Paul's Parish Hall, offered to anyone who would move it for a dollar, was destroyed in the summer for the lack of a buyer. In an editorial of the Point Association's publication, *The Green Light*, a last minute plea was made for the early nineteenth-century structure. "The good people of St. Paul's appear to value their history. Recently they donned old-time costumes and welcomed many out-of-town Methodists for a commemoration of the visit of Bishop Asbury more than a century ago. Yet they are about to tear down their parish house and replace it with a large 'functional' building. Plenty of room exists for such an edifice behind the old house (which could even be used as a façade entrance, or a charming little courtyard between church and old house could lead to the door of the new building)."

Annandale, Va. Once impressive *Ossian Hall* went up in flames as six fire companies practiced their techniques. The house, vacant for eight years, was built in the early nineteenth-century on an 800-acre tract of the 22,000 Ravensworth grant acquired by William Fitzhugh from Lord Culpeper governor of the colony of Virginia. George Washington had surveyed the tract when it was the property of Lord Fairfax. Since the house was vacated, vandals had smashed fireplaces, torn off doors, defaced walls and floors, and stolen the early hardware. The house was also the victim of weather and termites. Community Builders, Inc., which plans a subdivision on the property, invited one company from the fire departments of Fairfax, Franconia, Burke, Centreville, and Jefferson Village, and all the fire equipment from nearby Annandale. Before the entire house was set aflame, the firemen set fire to the rooms one at a time and then put them out. About 500 persons watched the proceedings. Ironically, in the center of the seal of the Annandale fire department is a picture of *Ossian Hall*.

Charlotte, N. C. The old Confederate Navy Yard shop, a 100-year-old brick structure, was demolished recently to create a parking lot. It served the Seaboard Air Line Railway as a freight station for a number of years. The structure was built before the Confederate States of America moved the yard from Portsmouth, Va., to Charlotte in 1862. The yard was moved when Federal forces came uncomfortably close to Portsmouth, and Charlotte was selected for the site as it was far enough south of Portsmouth and far removed from Union Navy warships.

Pleasant Hills, Pa. While Pittsburgh this year celebrated the two-hundredth anniversary of its founding, Pleasant Hills destroyed the 200-year-old house built by its colonial founder. Proposals of the Pleasant Hills Borough Council to preserve the stone house ended in October with the blows of a demolition crew. Council members and residents were shocked to hear sledge hammers and crowbars wielded by workmen taking off the roof of the old house. While the residents kept the borough office jangling with protests, the councilmen were at a loss to explain why the owner was now allowing the house to be torn down. At a council meeting ten days earlier, efforts by the borough to purchase the house were undertaken. Negotiations to obtain the structure had been underway since April when the National Trust urged the councilmen "to save your historic site which is one of the few remaining landmarks of the original Pleasant Hills founded in the Revolutionary War days." Records show the house was built by a William Walker, the first settler in the Pleasant Hills area, and had served as a stagecoach stop, tavern, and private residence. The Council was

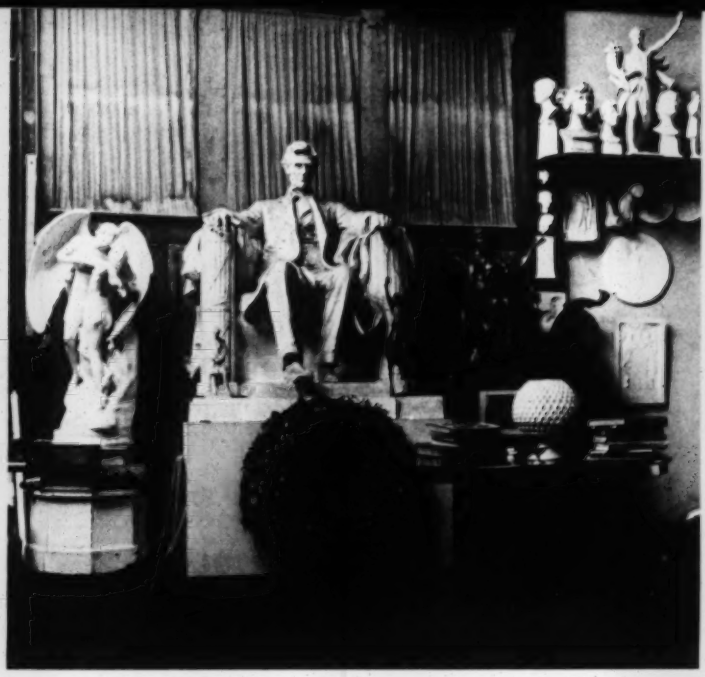


Old Stone House, Pleasant Hills, Pa.

exploring the wisdom of obtaining the house for possible conversion to a museum or a combination borough building and police station.

The owner eventually explained that the lease with the present lessee would have made sale to the borough impossible. "Apparently someone failed to notify the borough officials that the lease with the present user of the property makes it impossible for us to sell it. The present lessee wants to put up a trailer sales camp, I believe. In any event this lease permits him to do anything with the house he wants and we can't stop him." The Trust, through one of its Pittsburgh representatives, Mrs. Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr., had joined the South Hills *Record's* two-year campaign to save the house. She writes, "Unfortunately, like too many Americans in too many communities, not enough people cared enough, at the time, to heed warnings. Recently the newspaper carried stories about 3,000 people gathering in a spontaneous assembly, at a nearby community, to protest sewer assessment bills. But not even 30 people assembled to plan the preservation of the Old Stone House, before it was too late."

Easthaven, Conn. After offering the historic Jeddy Andrews house to anyone who would remove it from the projected north-south runway of the New Haven Municipal airport, authorities razed it in December in order to complete construction of the new facility. It was erected in 1743 and was one of the oldest surviving in the area.



Chesterwood

Sculptor Daniel Chester French is memorialized by a museum at his studio at *Chesterwood,* Stockbridge, Mass., as well as by the two most famous figures which he created, the Minute Man at Concord Bridge and the seated Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial, both symbols of freedom to Americans. His Berkshire studio and 70 acres of surrounding land were given in 1954 to the Trustees of Reservations for a public museum by French's daughter, Mrs. William Penn Cresson, "to illustrate the classical period of sculpture of which his work was an outstanding example."

The Friends of Chesterwood, a member organization of the National Trust, was formed recently to raise an endowment fund to underwrite an annual deficit for the maintenance of the studio, the garden, and woods. In addition another $50,000 is needed for remodeling the barn where there are already quantities of plaster casts and memorabilia connected with French's long career.

The late artist built the studio in 1897 from plans by Henry Bacon, the American architect who designed the Lincoln Memorial in which the French statue of Lincoln is housed.

As a youth of 22, Daniel Chester French, who had never made a statue, was entrusted with a commission by the Concord Committee for the Minute Man. Unveiled by Ralph Waldo Emerson on April 19, 1875, it brought immediate fame to its youthful creator. Between that time and the Lincoln commission, completed when he was 72, scores of figures, groups, equestrian statues, portrait statues, and ministering angels came from the sculptor's studio. Displayed there are the three-foot bronze of the Minute Man; the six-foot plaster cast of the Lincoln statue; the three-foot model of the heroic figure "Alma Mater," which sits serenely on the steps of the Low

Library at Columbia University; the small sketch of John Harvard, model for the larger one in Harvard Yard; the small figure in bronze of the equestrian statue of Washington for the Place d'Iéna in Paris, the model for the standing Lincoln in front of the State House in Lincoln, Neb.; the War Memorial for St. Paul's School; and a pair of bronze doors for the Boston Public Library.

An unusual feature of the studio is a railroad track on which the artist could move a statue outdoors, after working inside, to look at it under more natural conditions. The first large monument which Mr. French designed in the Stockbridge studio was the equestrian statue of George Washington, commissioned by the Women of America as a gift to Paris and dedicated July 1900 at the time of the Paris Exposition.

Exhibited also at the studio are many of the sculptor's tools; hammers and chisels, small rasps and files for cutting marble, and enormous calipers for measuring large statues. There are pieces of furniture from his first studio in Concord and paintings in oil and pastel.

Other monuments created by Daniel Chester French include the Dupont Circle Fountain and the First Division Memorial in the Nation's Capital; the Milmore Memorial, "The Angel of Death Staying the Hand of the Sculptor," in Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston; four heroic marble groups representing the four continents placed in front of the New York Custom House; the statue of General Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, which stands in a square in Savannah; and figures for the State Capitol of Wisconsin.

A program of interpretation at *Chesterwood* is directed to nearby school children. The following are extracts from compositions written by some of them after a visit to the studio: "One of his best statues, I think, was of two small owls, a male and a female. The male's wing was around the female, in a nice sort of way. French created it to give to his girl friend for St. Valentine's Day, but it was so good he kept it and gave her something else." "From the moment we drove onto the grounds it was obvious that Daniel Chester French loved beauty. Even if you didn't think you would care for such a place as a sculptor's studio (as I did) you would be impressed." "My favorite works were those of human hands. That one shelf covered with such realistic hands impressed me greatly. They were so simple and perfect in form that it is unbelievable that any man could have done such wonderful works." "Daniel Chester French certainly must have been a calm, peace-loving man, as all his works seem to express this. Even in his garden this air of peacefulness prevails. In his statue 'Death and Youth,' he makes death seem a quiet but wonderful blessing." "One could see his patriotism in such figures as the Minute Man and the Seated Lincoln, his religious feeling in the ministering angels, and his love for English Literature by the sculpturing he did of Dickens' characters."

"This past summer," writes Mrs. Cresson, "we had three afternoons when Peter Abate, in charge of the sculpture department at Boston Museum School of Fine Arts, gave a demonstration of marble carving. He set up a regular little marblé carver's studio on the upper terrace of the garden, complete with a forge, an anvil, grindstones, tools of all kinds, including electric drills. At the end of the session he invited the audience to try their hands at the drill, and this proved to be a great hit, especially with the children. Future plans include demonstrations of other techniques of sculpture, such as clay modelling and plaster casting, so that something living and contemporary will be taking place here."

—T. B. M.

IN DANGER

Sinking Spring, Pa. To make room for a service station, the town's 1811 octagonal schoolhouse will be razed in January, according to the real estate office of the Atlantic Refining Company. A furor created by aroused citizens was short-lived. The refining company offered the school to the Sinking Spring Borough Council, the School Board, and Berks County Historical Society for $6,500, but none of the groups could afford it. The school, built on property belonging to the Tulpehocken Welsh Baptist Church, was abandoned for school purposes around the middle of the nineteenth century. In more recent times the structure served as a lunch wagon, a house, a pottery shop, a summer cottage, and once even as a gas station. Its appearance, however, has never changed basically, and it would not take much to restore it to original condition, officials said.

San Francisco, Calif. A proposal to tear up historic Portsmouth Square for an 800-car underground garage met much public opposition last summer. Jay Villiar, secretary of the California Heritage Council, suggested that the Parking Authority investigate using the old Hall of Justice site across the street from the Square for a garage. "They could build a bigger garage and not destroy an irreplaceable San Francisco landmark," Villiar said. The problem is that the new landscape "completely changes the character of Portsmouth Square." Landscape architect Douglas Baylis, who designed the new Square, pointed out that the garage roof won't support the old hundred-foot-tall trees. Room must be made for elevator shafts and exhaust intakes and outlets, and a wall must be built along Kearny Street, raising the park level eight feet, to provide garage entrances and exits. Backers of the $3.2 million garage say that it would be too expensive to sink the structure another

A 1906 view of the Robert Louis Stevenson memorial, surrounded by three Lombardy poplars, in the center of Portsmouth Square. "The gentle Scot is said to have dreamed many an idle dream upon its park benches . . . ."

level to preserve the contour of the park. The Art Commission endorsed the design which will have wide pavements, a narrow bit of greenery, a flat slab to sit 8-12 feet above the level of Kearny Street atop a blank wall. This is an abrupt transformation of a familiar and historic landmark, with broad hillside lawns, ancient trees, and the Robert Louis Stevenson monument. Steven Jacobs, professor of architecture at the University of California, writes, "Portsmouth Square is the heart of the early trading community that grew to be the focus of a great metropolitan complex. It was the site of all

the great events of the city's early history, including the raising of the American flag which symbolized the change of allegiance of the region. When converted to a conventional contemporary park it will be impossible to recall or imagine the extraordinary associations which cluster about it. The numerous memorials which public-spirited groups have erected in the area are indications of a wide interest and general concern for this unique site."

Damariscotta, Me. Dodge house, one of three houses in the town built in 1754, may be torn down by its owner for a service station. A three-month option was taken on the property by a group of citizens seeking to raise $15,000 for the purchase price, as well as additional funds for an endowment. The house has been preserved almost in its original condition.

Louisville, Ky. Locust Grove, the house where George Rogers Clark lived and died, and its 200-acre farm are to be sold in the near future by the executors of the estate of Mrs. Lilly Scott Waters. Barry Bingham, editor of the *Courier-Journal,* writes in an editorial that those who care about preserving Kentucky history and traditional beauty are concerned that the house be kept for future generations to admire, and that its preservation be made a memorial to George Rogers Clark, founder of Louisville and hero of the frontier. The house, listed in the 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey, was built by Colonel William Croghan. A letter written by Croghan dated March 9, 1805, leads historians to believe that the house was started about 1802, probably taking two years to complete. Migrating from Dublin, Colonel Croghan arrived in Louisville in 1784. Here he became an intimate of the family of John Clark, who had moved from Charlottesville, Va. Among the members of the household were George Rogers Clark, victor of Kaskaskia and Vincennes; and William Clark, who shared with Meriwether Lewis the command of the famous expedition across the West. One of John Clark's daughters, Lucy, became the wife of Colonel Croghan. When he decided to build a house for her and their growing family, he chose a location on high, rolling land and bought three tracts of property for the purpose. One was from the father of Zachary Taylor, while another was from James Madison of Virginia. In 1809, because of a stroke of paralysis and the amputation of his right leg, Clark came to live at *Locust Grove* with his sister and brother-in-law. Nine years later he died and was buried on the grounds. In 1868, his body was removed to Cave Hill for reburial with other members of his family. "The rapid progress made in civilizing the wilderness," writes Mr. Bingham, "is well illustrated by comparing the sketches that have survived of the rude log huts which were the first habitations in Louisville to the stately graciousness of *Locust Grove,* built a short 30 years later. . . . Clark was an invalid, but he was able to sit on the wide porch under the shade of trees still standing today, and feel the breeze across fields still open in the midst of what has become a close suburb of a city."

at
Portsmouth Plaza
PROTEST MEETING
Wednesday, November 4th
12:15 Noon

Join in the Public Protest Against BUILDING AN UNDERGROUND GARAGE ON PORTSMOUTH PLAZA San Francisco's Most Historic Spot

Costumes? Bands? Speakers?

Write your personal protest to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor and your S.F. Newspapers TODAY

USE OTHER SITES FOR PARKING NEEDS

Storming of Ste

Destruction of Stevens Castle was begun on December 1, after the *Quarterly* had gone to press. Last minute pleas from the forces that were moving to save the structure included a resolution passed unanimously by the New Jersey Assembly and Senate, requesting that the building be spared.

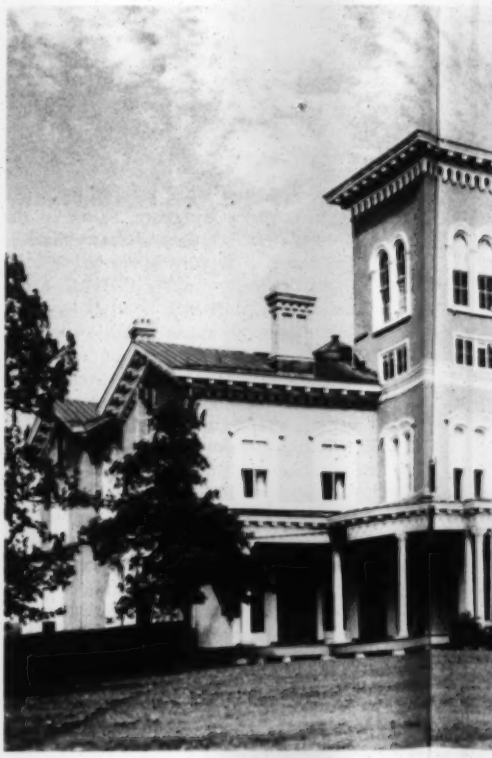
Plans of President Jess H. Davis and the Board of Trustees of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N. J., to raze Castle Stevens have evoked a storm of protest from preservation groups and individuals throughout the nation. Among those joining in urging reconsideration of the proposal are the Stevens family (which founded the Institute in 1870); the Hoboken Chamber and Junior Chamber of Commerce; the New Jersey Historical Society; the American Institute of Architects; the Municipal Arts Society of New York; the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society; the press, including the *Villager* of which J. Owen Grundy is editor; the Hudson River Conservation Society; the Society of Architectural Historians; other historical and antiquarian societies; and the National Trust. A new $1,750,000 student-faculty center will replace the 1854 structure, a landmark rich in tradition and legend which houses the admissions office, student cafeteria, and faculty and staff dining rooms.

The 105-year-old Victorian mansion stands on Castle Point, a grassy bluff commanding a view of the New York skyline and the Hudson River from the Statue of Liberty to the George Washington Bridge. Surrounded by lawns and shade trees, it stands in marked contrast to the Hoboken docks below. Third house on the site, the mansion was constructed by Robert Livingston Stevens, son of Col. John Stevens, inventor and transportation magnate.

President Davis cites costs of more than $100,000 to repair the Castle and $30,000 a year to maintain it. Others charge that the 31-room Castle appears incongruous against the setting of modern Stevens campus and the heavily industrialized city. Stevens Alumni Association secretary calls it "an architectural monstrosity which represents no period of American architecture."

History of the Castle begins when Colonel Stevens purchased Hoboken in 1784 at a public auction for about $90,000. At the time Hoboken, spelled then by Colonel Stevens as Hooboken

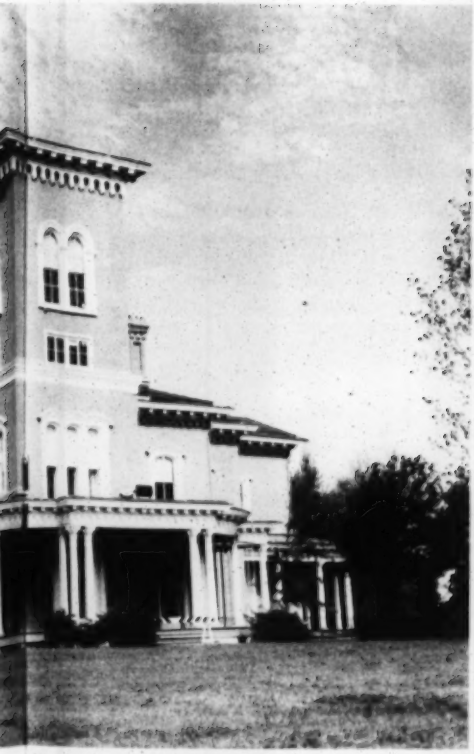
The river facade of Stev



f Stevens Castle

and Hoebuck, was virtually an island. He envisioned Hoboken, an area of thick woods and sandy beaches, which the Indians called Hapoghan Hacking, as a resort where New York City folk could get away from it all. Although New York's population was only about 46,000, many of its inhabitants already thought that the city was getting overcrowded and noisy. So Colonel Stevens built his dream house, the *Villa*, in Hoboken, and he and his sons devoted themselves to invention and to the development of the area as a vacation spot for New Yorkers. They built a River Walk down where the piers are today. Near their house they built an amusement park with what was probably the first American roller coaster. They were so successful in their "promote-Hoboken movement" that on a summer weekend thousands of city people tramped through the woods.

cade of Stevens Castle.



The Castle replaced the *Villa* which burned in 1850. The two-story gray stucco house has a circular entrance rotunda which is 35 feet in diameter and 65 feet high. Doors throughout the house are 2½ inches thick, and doorways 11 feet high. Parquetry floors are worked in elaborate designs. The 36-foot drawing room became the trustees' room of Stevens Institute. Each window was designed with three sliding doors fitted into the wall. One, of glass, was for use in cold weather. Another had louvres to admit summer air but shut out the sun. The third was solid to insure security at night.

Under the house are three tunnels, which have now largely caved in, and their entrances have been bricked up. One led from a first-floor room to an outlet on the cliff, used to bring supplies from the river without intruding on the activity of the household; the second led from a basement room to a small brick structure in which were located a greenhouse and boiler room; a third tunnel ended in a subterranean root cellar.

In the years when it was the Stevens Mansion, the Castle sheltered many prominent statesmen, among them President Woodrow Wilson. It was not unusual for the family to entertain as many as 200 at a reception and dinner. In the summer of 1866 on the broad lawns a performance of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" was presented starring Maurice Barrymore as Orlando and Rose Coghlan as Rosalind.

"Castle Stevens," states J. Owen Grundy, "is Hudson County's only surviving historic landmark and alone stands as a reminder of Hoboken's past glory." Washington Irving visited his patron, John Jacob Astor, at the latter's country house not far from the present campus. William Cullen Bryant spent his summers in a nearby cottage that overlooked the river and sang its praises in one of his poems. The Elysian Fields, near Castle Point, were the picnic grounds of the era.

The Stevens story is told by Archibald Turnbull in a full-length biography, *John Stevens: An American Record*. Working together, the father and his sons Robert and Edwin designed, built, and operated one of the first wholly American-built steamboats of commercial importance. The 100-foot *Phoenix*, designed for passenger and freight service, became in 1809 the first steamship to sail the ocean. It plied between Philadelphia and Trenton, serving as a unit in the cross-state transportation system controlled and managed by Stevens' sons. As early as 1803 Stevens had secured a United States patent for a multitubular boiler. In 1804 his small steamboat, operated by twin-screw propellers and called *Little Juliana*, had been taken back and forth across the Hudson by two of his sons. The propellers replaced the paddle wheels. The multitubular boiler is used widely today on steamships and railroads.

Another Stevens family contribution was the double-ended ferry boat that did not need to be turned around. These are a familiar sight today on the Hudson and other waterways.

Early in the nineteenth century Colonel Stevens and Edwin experimented with armor-clad warships and armor-piercing projectiles. In 1841 they designed an iron-clad warship and later built the *Naugatuck*, a semi-submersible ironclad that fought the Confederate *Merrimac* during the Civil War.

Steam railroads preoccupied Colonel Stevens for many years. He made the nation's first railroad survey for what later became the beginnings of the present Pennsylvania Railroad. In 1826 he built the first locomotive to run on tracks in America, having laid an experimental circular track at Castle Point in an effort to convince the popular mind of the feasibility of the steam locomotive. Later, Edwin and Robert built the first railroad in New Jersey, the Camden & Amboy, which today is part of the Pennsylvania system.

Robert Stevens invented the railroad track as it is known today, with its "T" rail, wooden cross-ties and hook-headed spikes to hold them together. He also invented the so-called "cow-catcher."

Colonel Stevens did much for New York City. He engineered its first water supply system and worked out plans for sewage disposal. He proposed fireboats and floating hospitals for communicable

The hand-carved walnut spiral staircase in the main hall of Stevens Castle.

diseases, a tunnel under the Hudson and a bridge over it, elevated railways, "unsinkable" ships, a system of aqueducts to replace wells and springs, a detailed plan for street cleaning, and an offshore gun battery to defend New York harbor.

His eldest son, John Cox Stevens, was a founder of the New York Yacht Club and head of the group which sent the *America* to England to compete for the international cup. The *America* owed much of its lines to the theories Robert had developed for hull design, although it came from the board of George Steers, a protégé of the family. The story goes that Queen Victoria, spectator at the international race, inquired of her sailing master the order of finish. "The *America* is first, Madam," she was told, "there is no second." John, first commodore of the Club, provided club quarters in a pavilion erected in the Elysian Fields. This house was subsequently moved to Sands Point, then Glen Cove, and is now at Mystic, Conn., where it is a historical exhibit.

It was Colonel Stevens' son Edwin who in 1870 bequeathed $500,000 and a square city block in Hoboken for the purpose of founding an institute of technology. It was the first college in the country to grant a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1910 Stevens Institute purchased the Castle and surrounding properties from the family for a reported $114,000.

In 1949 Stevens alumni started a $100,000 restoration of the Castle. In World War I an army unit was stationed in the Castle, and in World War II a group of Navy V-12 cadets used it as a barracks, causing considerable damage to the structure. Completion of the restoration was marked by a one-hundredth birthday celebration for the Castle. Old woodwork and fine hardwood floors were refinished; crystal chandeliers reinstalled; brocade wall coverings had been reproduced in Italy. The Stevens family loaned rare heirlooms and family oil portraits which now hang in the mansion. The president of the college invited several hundred city and state officials and prominent alumni to inspect Castle Stevens and watch the unveiling of a bronze plaque marking its first 100 years. It reads in part: "With grateful appreciation to the alumni for their interest in preserving this historic landmark, 1954."

Prior to the September public announcement, members of the family were invited to meet with the Board of Trustees and were informed of the decision to raze Castle Stevens. "We were unable to persuade them to see the need for the new building," said President Davis. "We must remember Stevens is not a historical society. It is an institute of engineering and science. The Castle has been used effectively in the past but now the Institute has outgrown it." Mrs. Stevens Baird, who is leading members of the family in the struggle to preserve the Castle, says that her family feels there are other sites on the grounds where the new building could be erected. Members of the family have been assured that plans for the new student-faculty center call for a "Castle Room" to include furniture, paintings, and other items from the old mansion.

The alumni were informed by mail of the possibility that the Castle might be torn down. One distinguished alumnus, the Reverend C. Leslie Glenn, former rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C., wrote President Davis: "From my experience in the Church, I know that the congregation that has the oldest building always has the greatest honor in any community. You can say that this other group is more ancient but their building burned down; none of that matters. The general public takes the oldest building to be the oldest church. Therefore, no amount of talking about how

New York skyline across the Hudson from the porch of Stevens Castle.

ancient a school of engineering we have will ever be as convincing as Castle Stevens itself. Visible from the New York side of the river, one of the sights that is hailed by ocean-going passengers, it is a commanding historic landmark as no modern building would be . . . , the Castle is often the only reminder to all returning alumni of their days in Hoboken. You who live with it get used to the permanence and continuing memories, but the rest who come back only once every five years need something like the Castle to look at. . . . I am persuaded that the Castle has great value in increasing alumni giving, and, from the hard-boiled point of view, this makes it worth preserving. When men go back to a place they don't recognize any more, something is broken. It is exactly as if Princeton gave up Nassau Hall, or Harvard abolished the Yard."

—T. B. M.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

That historical restorations can become major tourist attractions for all kinds and ages of persons is proved by the attendance records at Tryon Palace, New Bern, N. C. There 16,131 visitors paid for guided tours of the buildings and grounds during the first 88 days they were open to the public. Of these 13,235 were adults and 2,896 were children; they came from 46 states and 14 foreign countries. The success of the palace so far has convinced local businessmen of the commercial value of restorations, in addition to their historical, educational and cultural benefits; they have accordingly raised funds to keep open the Attmore-Oliver house daily. This house was built about 1790 and is considered one of the fine architectural features of New Bern. It was purchased in 1954 by the New Bern Historical Society, which sponsored its restoration.

For the first six months of 1959 Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket, R. I., had 12,943 visitors, or 3,473 more in attendance than for the same period last year.

Old Fort Niagara, as represented by Paul P. Cohen and Grove McClellan, president and director of the Association, has been officially recognized by the republic of France. A certificate has been received through Paul J. Speyser, French consular agent at Buffalo, confirming the bestowal of a French governmental medal on the two officials for their efforts in perpetuating the French tradition at historic Old Fort Niagara, thus aiding in strengthening the bond of friendship between France and the United States.

Nantucket Historical Association celebrated in 1959 the three-hundredth anniversary of Nantucket's acquisition by its first white settlers. A July and August series of lectures entitled "Whaling Seminars" were given. The Association is working to put the 113-year-old Old Mill in operation, to grind corn again.

The Trustees of the Society of Liberal Arts and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the state of Nebraska recently announced the opening of its Cuming-Hamilton Room in the Early West Exhibit at the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha. The original furnishings owned by the Honorable T. B. Cuming, First Acting Governor of Nebraska Territory, 1854, and Charles W. Hamilton, a prominent citizen of early Omaha, were the gifts of Mrs. George W. Renchard of Washington, D. C., a descendant.

Richard Hubbard Howland was cited by Brown University for "discharging the Office of Life with usefulness and reputation" at its twenty-third convocation on Saturday, October 24. The citation was delivered by President Barnaby C. Keeney before the Alumni Assembly. "As an architectural historian, you have found history written in buildings as clearly as in books. You have dedicated your talents to the proposition that great historic buildings bring history to life for the man who enters them today; and, since our past has helped to make us what we are, we impoverish our present if we fail to preserve the dramatic landmarks in our architectural past."

The Horace M. Albright Lectureship on Conservation at the University of California was announced at the testimonial dinner for Mr. Albright in Washington, D. C., on December 4. "The lectureship will prove," said Kenneth Chorley, chairman of the Horace M. Albright Testimonial Committee, "to be of continuous value over the years in extending the character and constructive attitudes and thinking that Horace Albright exemplifies. Its purpose will be not only to provide a platform for carefully selected persons year after year, but to make use of these endowed lectures to call widespread

attention to the kind of guidance on resource conservation and development so urgently needed as population growth continues to press against our resources. The publication and wide dissemination of copies of the lectures should add a new dimension to our literature on the subject: the 'impetus to act.' This is in itself a reflection of the remarkable man we are honoring, who for 40 years or more has provided active leadership in innumerable important fields of endeavor." The dinner was attended by the representatives of the many organizations which Mr. Albright has served: Colonial Williamsburg, Jackson Hole Preserve, Roosevelt Association, American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, National Parks Association, American Planning and Civic Association, Save-the-Redwoods League, American Society of Landscape Architects, National Park Service, Palisades Interstate Park Commission, Theodore Roosevelt Association, Wilderness Society, American Pioneer Trails Association, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Preservation Society of Newport County awarded 1959 citations to Mrs. Samuel Schwartz, "Historian, collector, and contributor to the increase of knowledge and understanding of our American Heritage, . . . for the contribution of your intelligent and untiring efforts toward restoration of the Touro Synagogue, a labor of real historic significance and national importance"; and to John E. Rovensky, "Business leader, scholar in the field of the economic history of the world, philanthropist . . . for your most generous contribution to the preservation of the scenic, historic and architectural resources of the City of Newport and for this expression of your great interest in the economic, cultural and architectural future of the city of Newport."

Friends of Old Dover, Del., report the expenditure of nearly a thousand dollars for removal of diseased and storm-damaged trees from the Green, their replacement with new trees, and spraying and pruning. The Green is in the heart of Dover as defined by Penn in his original order and laid out in its present confines in 1717. Proceeds from Old Dover Days, held the first Saturday and Sunday of May each year, provided the funds. Dover houses, gardens, documents, and loan collections are on display.

The Henry Whitfield House, Guilford, Conn., is planning to publish the contents of a manuscript, "Book of Drafts." It was written by the weaver, Sarah Fowler of Guilford, who lived from 1797 to 1837. The book will contain, in addition to pictures of the original drafts, photographs of 16 samples woven from these drafts and a modern handweaver's version of the drafts. There will also be a short biography of Sarah Fowler and comments on the various patterns. Lois North, curator, is editing the book.

Ronald F. Lee, chief of the Division of Interpretation in the Washington Office of the National Park Service since 1951, on January 1, 1960, became regional director of the Region Five office in Philadelphia. He succeeded Daniel J. Tobin, who applied for voluntary retirement after 38 years in the National Park Service. Daniel F. Beard, superintendent of Olympic National Park, Washington, succeeded Mr. Lee. Since 1949 Mr. Lee has served as secretary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. He was selected as the American representative, Committee of Experts on Sites and Monuments of Art and History, called by UNESCO in Paris in October 1949. He received the Cornelius Amory Pugsley silver medal for accomplishments in conservation in 1952. He was given the National Civil Service League merit citation in 1956

"in recognition of an outstanding career in public service." In 1958, Mr. Lee was presented the Department of Interior's Distinguished Service Award "for outstanding achievements in historic preservation." Twenty-seven park areas in nine states are administered by Region Five of the Park Service.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

From the dispute of the Vieux Carré Commission and the Vieux Carré Property Owners and Associates (Trust members) with the D. H. Holmes & Co., department store owners of New Orleans, over the demolition of four old Bienville Street cottages for a warehouse site has come a compromise that has made everybody happy—especially those who are *aficionadoes* of the old French Quarter and the New Orleans style of jazz that originated there. The D. H. Holmes Co. agreed to dismantle, remove, and reconstruct three of the cottages on Dumaine Street on the lower side between Rampart and Burgundy. A Jazz Museum under the supervision of the New Orleans Jazz Club will open at 1011 Dumaine this year. Harry Souchon, the club's vice president, said, "The club has been dreaming of having a museum since its inception."

The museum will house jazz items such as instruments, photographs, records, tape recordings, sheet music, and "most anything we can get our hands on," said Souchon. "People who come to New Orleans constantly are asking us where they can go to learn about jazz. This is our answer."

* * *

The case of the City of Sarasota *vs* Sunad, Inc., decided in the District Court of Appeal of Florida on August 28, 1959, was denied a rehearing on September 23, 1959. Jacob Morrrison (of New Orleans) reports that an attempt to hold aesthetic zoning by a signboard ordinance was held to be unconstitutional. The Apellate Court ruled in favor of the City of Sarasota. Its opinion stated in part:

"We agree that there is substantial competent evidence to support and sustain the finding of the chancellor that the defendant is entitled to take into account aesthetic considerations in the exercise of police powers. The City of Sarasota is the art center of Florida. It being the site of the famous Ringling Art Gallery, which contains one of the most valuable art collections in this country; it is also a cultural center and one of the most beautiful tourist areas in Florida. It is entitled to exercise its police power to preserve and enhance its beauty and attractiveness as a lure, to the millions of people living in less favored areas, to come and visit and enjoy its natural and man-made beauty. The major part of the defendant's economy depends upon art, cultural and tourist attractions and to increase the lure of these attractions will benefit the entire community. The City of Sarasota should be permitted to exercise its governmental authority so as to increase its grace, charm and enduring beauty and exercise such power under the law to prevent and avoid a honky-tonk appearance."

* * *

Florida's Supreme Court in the case of City of Daytona *vs* Abdo upheld the constitutionality of an ordinance regulating billboards and in its expanded opinion commented on the preservation of aesthetic values:

"Thus Florida aligned itself with the State of Wisconsin as one of the first to recognize that aesthetic values bear a reasonable relationship to the general welfare of a community whose economy depended to a large extent upon preserving such values for the benefit of tourists and visitors to their locality, and as such constitutes a proper subject for exercise of the police power."

Detail of "The Horses Eagerly Quenching Thirst, Camels Disdaining," one of a number of paintings in Decatur House to be restored by the Questers Restoration Fund. This is one of two paintings by Narjot, depicting incidents in the 1857 expedition led by Gen. Edward F. Beale in the Southwest to test camels for use on the American desert.

The Questers Restoration Fund

An annual fund for the restoration of paintings in historic house museums has been established by The Questers, a national organization chartered under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a new member organization of the National Trust. To be administered by the National Trust, the initial gift of $1500 will be used to restore paintings at Decatur House, the Trust's property on Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, in Washington, D. C.

Mrs. William George Bardens of Fort Washington, Pa., a long-time collector of antiques, is the founder and honorary national president of The Questers. She conceived the idea of the organization in the early days of 1944 when she realized the relief from war tensions that interest in an antique pitcher she had purchased brought to her fellow workers at the Ambler branch of the American Red Cross.

Formal organization took place at her residence in April of that year, with the later chapters being organized on a national basis in 1950. Today, there are approximately 110 chapters throughout the United States.

There are usually 20 members in each chapter of The Questers, the name of which was taken from Charles Messer Stow's column on antiques in the New York *Sun*. Essential requirements of membership are an interest in antiques and related subjects, the ability to do research, and to present study papers. Chapters meet once a month; once a year an annual luncheon and a council meeting are held. This year at the meeting to be held in Philadelphia assembled delegates will see slides of the progress of the first efforts of their

painting restoration project for the National Trust.

Previous to their generosity in creating this fund for administration by the Trust, The Questers had contributed funds to the restoration of the lower floor of Independence Hall and to Sturbridge Village for restoration of buildings wrecked in the disastrous flood of 1955.

—W. J. M.

URBAN DECAY

The American Institute of Architects Board of Directors at its fall meeting in Portland, Ore., made the following declaration on recommendation of its Community Planning Committee:

The American Institute of Architects calls upon its local chapters and individual members to take the lead in improving our cities by advancing a coordinated approach to planning for community building and rebuilding.

Our first priority in this coming decade must be to make our communities more liveable, efficient and beautiful. By 1975 our total population will increase to around 225 million people, 70 percent of whom will live in cities and suburbs. Unless the habitation for this vast population expansion is properly designed and built, our cities and suburbs will continue to generate slums and traffic congestion.

The traffic problem cannot be solved by our present highway programs. On the contrary, highway construction without proper community planning is disrupting and disfiguring our communities. In San Francisco, Boston, and other cities irreparable damage has already been done by expert highway engineering without regard to city planning. In the National Capital the single-minded highway engineering concept deliberately relegates to second class status the proposed cultural center, the beloved Lincoln Memorial, the charms of the Potomac River, the parks, and other works of historic significance.

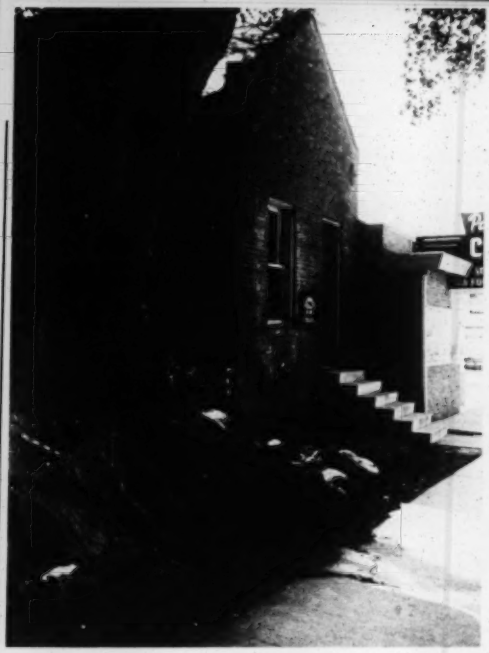
The decay of our cities is overtaking our limited on-again, off-again renewal efforts. Our national pride, the continuation of our high standard of living and our leadership of the free world demand sound and continuing redevelopment programs based on proper planning and design.

We must stop the pollution of land, water and air. We need greater emphasis on beauty in our environment. Effective means must be found to control city and highway blight, overhead wires, billboards, and other disruptive outdoor advertising.

In many cities—Kansas City, Detroit, Nashville, Memphis, Indianapolis, and Toledo among others—architects have already given effective leadership in redesigning their communities. Architects elsewhere must follow these examples by actively contributing to the improvement of our environment and by rallying the support of the public and our local, state and federal governments.

LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE

Opelousas, in St. Landry Parish on Bayou Teche, one of the third oldest cities in Louisiana, almost lost two of its famous landmarks several years ago. The venerable dark red brick law office of Alexandre and Homere Mouton and the magnificent live oak which shaded the office were both endangered when a seafood cafe on the corner made a substantial offer to purchase them for a site for an addition. Instead, because of a drive led by the local Kiwanis Club, the mayor, public officials, and concerned citizens, not only were the building and the great tree saved, but the city today boasts a historic, centrally located, busy tourist center on



The "Jim Bowie Oak" and the Mouton law office.

its courthouse square and an expanding museum and sales shop of Acadian and Creole arts and crafts.

The town was founded as a garrison by the French in 1720, came under Spanish rule in 1769, reverted to French rule for a brief span before the Louisiana Purchase, and was incorporated in 1821. Remaining in the town and its parish environs are dramatic vestiges of all the phases of its history, which annually attract tourists to the scenic driyes along the bayous. For a brief period, when Baton Rouge was occupied by Union forces, Opelousas became the Confederate capital of Louisiana. The house owned by Homere Mouton is still known locally as "The Governor's Mansion," since he offered hospitality to Governor Allen during this brief period.

The "Jim Bowie Oak," named for the town's hero who died with the defenders of the Alamo, has another local distinction. It is a charter member of the Live Oak Society, an exclusive organization whose members qualify for admission on the basis of their circumference.

The Kiwanis Club leases the building, and the city of Opelousas employs a museum director and pays for the utilities. Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot of famous nearby Ringrose Plantation is chairman of the local Tourist Commission.

TO THE NEW YEAR

(*Continued from p.* 133)

Trust's encouragement of uses other than as historic house museums. Many well-built structures may earn their keep by being used for appropriate rentals, as civic centers, for cultural groups, or as private clubs. There are dozens of adaptive uses that the Trust recommends, always based on a careful study of the individual building and its local environment.

There are now more than 300 groups affiliated with the National Trust as member organizations. For many of them the Trust is a clearing house for information, a central intelligence bureau, an umpire occasionally, sometimes a shoulder to cry on. But there is a reciprocal exchange; the Trust is immeasurably aided by the helpful collaboration of its allied organizations. Sometimes the aid is financial; more often the assistance given the Trust is along the lines of useful information, professional aids, and strong moral support; this is particularly true of the contributions of the National Park Service, with which the Trust has a special reciprocal agreement. To its individual members and associated groups the National Trust is grateful for their joint efforts that enable us to continue and develop our program of scientific study, protection, restoration, maintenance, and interpretation of sites, buildings, and objects significant in American history and culture.

—R.H.H.

PROPOSED PRESERVATION

Trenton, N. J. The Brick Tavern, which a century ago catered to the carriage and stagecoach trade on the Brunswick-Easton Turnpike, has received a new lease on life. The structure was threatened by a new interstate alignment of Route 22 and has been purchased by Robert Trubeck for $250 at a State Highway Department auction. It will also cost the new owner more than $18,000 to transport the edifice a distance of 1,000 feet to a lot he recently acquired. He has asked the Hunterdon County Historical Society to lend him period furnishings; he will charge an admission fee and turn all proceeds over to the Hunterdon County Medical Center at Flemington. The hand-carved pine and oak fireplace mantels, the mirror frames, and interior trim are extant as is the arched front door. There is a large kitchen with brick oven, a dining room, large reception chamber, and two bedrooms. The cost of moving the dwelling is caused by its age and condition. The entire structure will have to be encased in a steel frame before it can be transported.

Covington, Ky. For 35 years the Monte Casino Chapel has stood in desolation and desecration, a victim of the Volstead Act of prohibition. "The Smallest Church in the World," it was built in 1901 by two Benedictine monks at the Monte Casino Monastery. The church stood in the fertile vineyard of the Monastery, where the monks could be seen, with their shepherd dogs, along the slopes tending their vines. The miniature church was built of field stone, quarried on the hillsides, and dedicated to "Our Sorrowful Mother." The land and structure have been purchased by a private citizen who will restore it and re-dedicate it to the "Sorrowful Mother."

Vicksburg, Miss. Preservation of Warren County's Indian mounds will be the first project of the newly organized Mississippi Historic Foundation of Vicksburg. Action on the mounds was prompted by interest in a mound 16 miles north of Vicksburg. When its owner prepared to level the mound, he learned from the Department of Archives and History that a state law forbids destruction of Indian mounds without the consent of the Department. The Department then turned this mound over to the new foundation for preservation. The mound, along with all other proven Indian mounds in the county, will be properly identified and preserved for its scientific and historic value, Foundation members decided. The constitution and bylaws of the new organization will empower it "to acquire, preserve and maintain sites, buildings and structures relating to the natural, aboriginal, civil, political, military, literary, ecclesiastical, industrial and commercial history of Warren County." Several letters have already gone to owners of property the Foundation is interested in preserving, according to Mrs. Eva Davis, president. These include one to the Salvation Army which, in Vicksburg, has its headquarters in the old Duff Green Mansion. Major Osborne of the Salvation Army expressed willingness to cooperate with the Foundation in preserving the house. He said they had done extensive repairs but had made no structural changes.

Philadelphia, Pa. Redevelopment of Society Hill promises to give Philadelphia a distinction among large American cities. Co-ordinator William L. Rafsky has designated 104 old houses for restoration in that area. The Redevelopment Authority has set standards for the work to which the owners of the properties must conform or else move out. Thirty-two of the buildings are those in which the owners are not

interested in doing the necessary restoration, and these will be offered to historical or social groups as meeting places or club houses under the same restrictions.

Salt Lake City, Utah The State Parks Commission moved ahead to renovate Cove Fort in southern Utah after a court jury awarded the owner $70,000 for the property, climaxing a five-day condemnation suit. Cove Fort is at a strategic location on a projected interstate defense highway system, one highway passing about a mile west of the fort, and another passing in front. Harold P. Fabian, chairman of the State Parks Commission, stated that Cove Fort is a great pioneer landmark. The Commission has allocated $35,000 to be spent immediately for restoration purposes, and $6,000 a year for maintenance and operation. Built of rock, the 100-foot square fort was completed in 1867 under the direction of Brigham Young. It was a principal way station and hostelry between Salt Lake City, St. George, and Los Angeles. Even in its present condition the fort has historic appeal; a recent two-hour traffic count showed that 91 of 515 passing cars stopped at the fort.

Wake Forest, N. C. The Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, Inc., met recently to hear progress reports on efforts to restore an old house where college classes began in 1834. Dr. C. C. Crittenden of Raleigh, director of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History, is president of the Society. The group needs about $20,000 to complete the restoration of the home of Wake Forest College's first president, Dr. Washington Manly Wingate. Here also some of the first Wake Forest classes were held. The old Wingate house was about to be destroyed a few years ago when Dr. Crittenden and the Society took action. They moved the house from a site west of the old college campus to a new location.

Grand Forks, N. D. Thomas D. Campbell, known as "The Wheat King," has been asked to donate his family homestead as a historical monument to the first settlers of the area. Campbell has been described by local residents as leading "one of the most spectacular careers that has sprung from Grand Forks." All his life he engaged in farming, although he has a doctorate in mechanical engineering. His plans and operations of wheat raising on farms up to 95,000 acres are often referred to as an "epic in agriculture." Campbell was a special investigator on lands available for agriculture on Indian reservations for the Department of Agriculture during World War I. In 1929 he was called to Russia to map plans for planting wheat in an area of ten million acres. Since then he has been an agricultural consultant, mainly on wheat and flax, to the British government and for France which sent him to North Africa to modernize and mechanize wheat production there.

Southampton, N. Y. The Southampton Colonial Society in 1958 purchased *The Hollyhocks*, one of the oldest English frame houses in the state. The saltbox homestead was built in 1648-49 by Thomas Halsey, one of a group of English settlers from Lynn, Mass., who sailed into Peconic Bay, landed at Conscience Point in North Sea Harbor, and made their way through the wilderness guided by friendly Shinnecock Indians. Tragedy struck the family when Mr. Halsey's young bride was murdered in the house in 1649 by New England Indians who sought to incite war against the Southampton settlement. The Society purchased the property for $20,000 and is in the process of raising a restoration and endowment fund. The Southampton Garden Club is creating a seventeenth-century herb garden. The Olde Towne Garden Club is designing traditional gardens, using such plants, seeds, and bulbs as were

brought over by the colonists. They are also featuring plants and trees native to Long Island.

Sanford, N. C. A plan to restore the McIver cotton gin and press as a "desirable point of interest for Sanford" has been advanced by a committee of persons interested in the preservation of the relic. A new site and a plan of restoration are being considered for the more than 100-year-old press.

Piney Flats, Tenn. The state of Tennessee recently purchased *Rocky Mount* in Sullivan County, and restoration of the log house will be undertaken soon. The old residence served as the home and first official headquarters of Governor William Blount of the territory south of the Ohio River. A recent session of the Tennessee legislature voted an appropriation of $30,000 for purchase and restoration of the property, referring final negotiations to the state historical commission. *Rocky Mount* will be operated as a state site by the Rocky Mount Historical Association. Formerly known as the William Cobb House, it became the territory's seat of government in 1790 and remained so until Knoxville was laid out and Blount's official residence began there in May of 1792. The house was built of white oak logs and in later years covered with weatherboarding. It consisted of nine rooms, two floored attics, and spacious fireplaces. After a brief venture into independent government by the state of Franklin, authority for all of the region was again taken over by North Carolina. Then, in December of 1789, North Carolina ceded to the United States government all of the land west of the Allegheny Mountains. This included all of what was to become the state of Tennessee and parts of seven other states. In the summer of 1790, President Washington appointed William Blount of North Carolina as governor and superintendent of Indian affairs of the newly created territory.

Washington, D. C. *Rosedale*, the historic Cleveland Park estate, has been purchased by the National Cathedral Foundation. One of the last remaining undeveloped areas near the Cathedral, the 10-acre estate was acquired recently to assure adequate room for future expansion. *Rosedale* remains much as it was originally planned in 1794. Cathedral Dean Francis B. Sayre said there are no immediate plans for use of the estate by the Foundation and noted that there is a constant flow of applications for space on the Cathedral close from Protestant groups desiring to be near the national church. *Rosedale* was built by one of George Washington's officers, Gen. Uriah Forrest, who lost a leg in the Battle of Brandywine. He acquired a 998-acre tract which consisted of most of what is now Cleveland Park.

Old City Hall

Detroit, with its polyglot population and its new City-County Building, a monumental facility on the edge of the new Civic Center, is in the midst of a controversy over what to do with its old City Hall. It has stood in its strategic center since 1871, when it was dedicated with pride and ceremony. The building is of Neo-French Renaissance style, similar to that of the Philadelphia City Hall, which will remain as the focal point of a redevelopment area of that city, and the old State War and Navy Building in Washington, D. C., used as an Executive Office Building but threatened with ultimate destruction.

The old City Hall was listed among fourteen of Detroit's buildings as "architecture worth saving" in a list prepared in 1958 by the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Detroit and Michigan Artists Memorial, and the Institute of Art. "The list is confined to nineteenth-century structures," stated William Kapp, "because they are the first to be

threatened. . . . These are typical examples of the fine buildings we see every day and take for granted. We should be taking steps to see that they are preserved." It was recorded in 1954 by Emil Lorch of the American Institute of Architects' Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings, giving it high priority architecturally, and stating that it is the "only Detroit public building reminiscent of the city's French founding in 1701, and the city's last remaining example of the French Second Empire style."

Committees have been appointed to investigate its destruction or its preservation; there is even some inclination to leave the decision to a vote of all the people. In the end, however, the City Council will probably decide the issue. Meanwhile the discussions rage and many letters are being written to the newspaper editors, pro and con.

Those in favor of razing the old building point to its awkward dimensions and its ungainly appearance. The heating and plumbing systems are archaic; elevators do not run. Tradition, however, weighs heavily in the favor of proponents. This is where Detroit was born. In the shadow of old City Hall the automotive industry came to life in the old Pontchartrain Hotel, across the street, itself the victim of a wrecking crew. Thus far, in its eagerness to build a new city and create a new riverfront, Detroit has saved only the Old Mariners' Church.

The Crowninshield-Bentley House

The Crowninshield-Bentley House in Salem, Mass., was purchased recently by the Essex Institute from the Hawthorne Hotel, which planned its demolition, and was moved to the Institute grounds. Although its windows and doors had been modernized and the two lower rooms on the street front converted to shops, the exterior outlines of the original building remain. The interior is well preserved, except for normal deterioration of age. Funds are being solicited by the Institute for the restoration of the dwelling, from which came one of Salem's greatest families, as a memorial to Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield.

The lot on which the house stood was purchased in 1727 by John Crowninshield. It is thought that construction of the earliest portion, which included a large room and chamber and a large kitchen and kitchen chamber, probably began at this time. Heavy frame members are exposed and encased; the original stairs from the first floor to the garret are intact. Early balusters have trumpet turnings and harmonize in style with the heavy bulbous bolection moulding surrounding the chamber fireplace. Many original doors survive. An early oven remains in the large kitchen fireplace.

Around 1750 and prior to 1766, when its rooms were mentioned in an inventory of the house, the western half of the present structure was added with smaller units and a chimney of its own. The gambrel roof of the original eastern end of the house was extended to cover this addition. At this time it was the home of John Crowninshield, Jacob's son.

The most unusual architectural feature of the house is in the western garret chamber where a projecting chimney breast, with tiny fireplace and diminutive bolection moulding, is built into the sloping gambrel roof. There is a small plain cupboard with open upper shelves and a similar cupboard finished with rounded shell and moulded shelves

similar to those of a corner "boffat." Abbott Lowell Cummings, in an evaluation of the house, states, "The scale and delicacy of this construction is unmatched in New England and contributes heavily to the unique importance of the house."

After Jacob's death, his widow in 1791 acquired a boarder, the Reverend William Bentley, one of the most distinguished occupants of the house. Until his sudden death in 1819, Dr. Bentley occupied the large eastern chamber, and in it must have written most of the daily observations recorded in his voluminous diary covering the period April 30, 1784, to December 29, 1819. Hardly any current of thought or local event in the post-Revolutionary period escaped the attention of this pastor, politician, linquist, antiquarian, and naturalist. Published by Essex Institute 1905-14, the Bentley diary is important to the architectural historian as well as to the historian for he covers building phases of that time and earlier. He tells that the third and final addition to this house was made in 1794. This enlargement consists of another room and chamber behind the western half; much of its original trim, typical of the third and final phase of the eighteenth-century Georgian style, remains.

"The first three quarters of the eighteenth century, sandwiched in between two celebrated epochs," continues Mr. Cummings, "has suffered neglect in Salem. Of a number of really interesting eighteenth-century houses still standing there, only two are regularly open to the public. . . . From a teaching point of view the Crowninshield-Bentley is ideal, for here under a single room are three evolutionary stages of the eighteenth-century classical taste—its earliest bold beginnings, its mid-century refinements, and the final changes which form a transitional bridge to the Adamesque style of the Federal period."

Membership

Organizations which have recently joined the National Trust are the Association of Junior Leagues of America, Inc. (N. Y.); Burlington County Historical Society (N. J.); Friends of Arrow Rock (Mo.); Gen. James Mitchell Varnum House and Museum (R. I.); Historical Society of Frederick County, Inc. (Md.); Historical Society of Kent County (Md.); Maine Chapter, American Institute of Architects Historic Preservation Committee; Maryland State Society, U. S. Daughters of 1812; Naomi Wood Collection, Woodford Mansion (Pa.); Old Santa Fe Association, Inc. (N. M.); and St. Mary's County Historical Society (Md.).

FOREIGN PRESERVATION

Japan

The Japanese government and private organizations are planning to restore the 57-year-old battleship *Mikasa* of the former Imperial Navy. The vessel was once designated a monument to Japan's growing power but was allowed to deteriorate after World War II. Later the partly dismantled hulk was converted into a playground. United States naval units and other groups are contributing to a fund-raising drive to restore the historic warship to something like her original shape, but with dummy armament. The *Mikasa* was the flagship of the Japanese fleet, commanded by Admiral Heihachiro Togo, that destroyed the Russian Baltic Sea force in the Sea of Japan in 1905. The flagship was deactivated in 1921 and for the next two decades was considered a mecca for maritime-minded Japanese, young and old. The 15,365-ton, British-built vessel is now rusting away, with her hull sunk in concrete at Yokosuka, the big United States naval base south of Tokyo. When the

war ended in 1945, the Allied occupation forces took over custody of the ship. The Russians insisted upon scrapping the *Mikasa,* but she was saved by the efforts of United States and British authorities, according to the Mikasa Memorial Association. In 1948 the old battleship was turned into a children's playground by a private entrepreneur. Its armament and funnels were dismantled and replaced by wooden structures. Since then the steel structure has had almost no upkeep. The Memorial Association was formed last year by politicians, financiers, and former navy men. Five months ago the Japanese Defense Agency took over custody of the vessel and closed down the entertainment facilities. The Association began a campaign last February for 150,000,000 yen, or about $417,000, for the restoration. Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd., of Britain, which built the *Mikasa,* sent copies of the original blueprints to the Association as a guide in the reconstruction. The government decided to contribute 50,000,000 yen ($138,888) for the project. United States Navy personnel at Yokosuka and other American units in Japan have contributed about $3,000.

Ireland

Under the auspices of the Irish Georgian Society, 68 members of the Society of Architectural Historians visited Ireland last summer to study historic buildings in Dublin and elsewhere in Eire. They visited the Bank of Ireland, dating from 1729, first of a great series of Palladian buildings with which Dublin is adorned. Dr. Steven's hospital, Trinity College Library, and Dublin Castle also were inspected. An exhibition of Irish ecclesiastical architecture was staged in the gallery of St. Werburgh's Church, built in 1759. This took the visitors back to the time of St. Kevin, who lived more than 1000 years ago. "The church was the author of Irish art and is looked to as the custodian of what is best in the past, and the source of inspiration for the future," wrote Denis O'D. Hanna, architect. "If the church fails in this historic function, a purely materialistic art will result."

Algeria

The Casbah, the labyrinthine native quarter of Algiers, is being demolished and replaced with modern apartment buildings; structures with special historical or architectural interest, will, however, be preserved. The district, immortalized in films by the fictional Pépé le Moko, teems with 80,000 residents. Many of them will move to a new housing project in the Climat de France, a valley west of the Casbah. About 25,000 will remain in the renovated quarter. The razing will be carried out gradually over a period of several years. In the meantime, visitors will be able to absorb atmosphere—mostly unromantic — in the tangle of dark, winding steps and alleys that twist downhill from the old fortress which gave the Casbah its name. Once the principal nest of Barbary pirates, the fortress has been converted into a museum. There on April 30, 1827, the ruling Dey Hussein supposedly struck the French consul with his fly whisk, setting off the French conquest of Algeria and writing the end to Turkish rule. Cube-shaped, flat-roofed houses lean toward each other, leaving a thin strip of blue sky visible above the alleys. Some of the overhangs touch, converting lanes into dark tunnels. The doors are of heavy, carved wood, studded with nails; there are a few small, grated windows.

Thailand

The Asia Foundation requested copies of the National Trust's bylaws,

charter, and other information to send to a group of private citizens in Thailand who wish to preserve the ancient buildings and monuments in that country. The condition of the famous Wats in the Bangkok area are a cause of great concern. In addition to the general disrepair of these structures, the wall paintings in many of the Wats are fast disappearing because of the climate, leaky roofs, and general carelessness in methods of preservation. The Bangkok office of The Asia Foundation has approved a small grant to help preserve the famed murals of Wat Suvannaram, which date from the eighteenth century. The wall surfaces will be covered with a clear preservative, and plate glass will be used to protect the paintings.

Egypt

Egypt has offered to "cede" five Nubian temples to obtain aid for the preservation of ancient monuments in areas that will be inundated by the building of the Aswan High Dam. Egypt's Minister of Culture, Sarwat Okasha, in making the announcement to a meeting of the international committee of experts formed by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization to investigate ways of preserving the monuments, said the temples were offered with a view to their transfer abroad. Archaeological experts said it was the biggest "give-away" of antiquities in history. Walter B. Emery, professor of Egyptology at London University and a member of the committee, said the campaign to save the monuments would lead to an unprecedented scale of archaeological activity in Egypt, where nine-tenths of the archaeological treasures are still uncovered. In addition to giving away the temples, Egypt is ready to cede at least 50 per cent of the proceeds from finds to the parties that carry out excavations in the threatened area, as well as 50 per cent of finds of authorized excavations outside the threatened area, in lower, middle, and upper Egypt, including the royal necropolis at Sakkara. The five temples are of the New Kingdom (after 1570 B.C.) and Greco-Roman (332 B.C. to A.D. 640) eras and are at Dabod, Dakkeh, Dendur, Ellesya, and Deir. The salvation work, which covers 200 miles along the Nile from Aswan to the Sudanese border, will have to be completed before 1967, when the Aswan High Dam is scheduled to be completed.

England

Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, together with its principal contents, park, and estate, formerly the property of the Dukes of Devonshire, was accepted by the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty from the Treasury under the National Land Fund Scheme. According to the Trust, Hardwick Hall is the most important house to be acquired to date in this way. On the recommendation of the Historic Buildings Council, the Ministry of Works made a grant of £30,000 towards repairs that will be carried out over the next ten years together, if necessary, with an annual maintenance grant. Begun by Bess of Hardwick in 1591, probably with the help of Robert Smythson, Hardwick has been called "the most successful and best preserved of the great palaces of the Elizabethan Renaissance." Outstanding among the splendid series of state rooms is the High Great Chamber with its famous colored plaster frieze. Much of the furniture is listed in an inventory dated 1601, and the collection of tapestries and sixteenth-century needlework are said to be unparalleled in any private collection. The director of the Victoria and Albert Museum and his staff will advise the Trust on the care of the contents of Hardwick, in particular the needlework and tapestries.

Publications

Some Examples of Irish Country Houses of the Georgian Period. John Jay Ide. Privately Printed, New York: Wittenborn and Co., 1018 Madison Avenue. 1959. 66 pp., 25 ill., $5.00.

A short and up-to-date guide to Irish country houses has long been needed. Captain Ide has earned the gratitude of architectural historians by providing this brief volume that describes and illustrates 16 of the most important examples, three of them in Northern Ireland.

Some aspects of American eighteenth-century architecture, particularly in Maryland, seem closer to Irish prototypes than English. Irish artisans and craftsmen, perhaps even architects, emigrated frequently from Irish ports to Annapolis and Baltimore. The publication of this volume, together with increased travel and research on the part of architectural historians, should bring more information to light on the connections between Ireland and eighteenth-century America.

Few of the great country houses in Ireland are open to the public; exceptions are the properties of the National Trust for Northern Ireland. This volume will bring to many readers an awareness of this distinguished architecture which can be observed, *in situ*, only by a few fortunate visitors.

—R. H. H.

Woodlawn Plantation, Mount Vernon, Virginia. Washington, D. C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation. 1959. 24 pp., illus., map. $.60.

A new history of Woodlawn Plantation, the first property accepted by the National Trust, has been written by Helen Duprey Bullock, historian of the National Trust.

The house was built 1802-5 as part of the marriage settlement of George Washington upon his foster daughter, Eleanor Parke Custis, and his favorite nephew, Major Lawrence Lewis. Architect of the mansion was Dr. William Thornton, first architect of the United States Capitol. In addition to an account of the persons who lived in the mansion, the booklet includes a discussion of architectural features and association furnishings, documentaries, and floor plans. The Woodlawn gardens were restored by the Garden Club of Virginia. The historic property, open daily from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., is on U. S. 1, 3 miles south of *Mount Vernon*.

That the Past shall Live . . .; the history program of the National Park Service. U. S. Department of the Interior, Fred A. Seaton, Secretary; National Park Service, Conrad L. Wirth, Director. [Washington, D. C.] 1959. 39 pp., illus.

This well-designed brochure is intended as an explanation of the National Park Service policies in administering its group of 180 areas, which have been selected to tell the story of this nation and this continent from its beginnings. It is also an explanation of the 10-year MISSION 66 program to carry out long-range plans "on a scale large enough to overtake today's problems and to keep abreast of the developing needs of the future." Publication of the brochure was underwritten by Old Dominion Foundation as a public service. Copies have been mailed by the National Park Service to all Trust member organizations.

The Maryland and Delaware Genealogist. Vol. 1, Number 1. September 1959. Raymond B. Clark, Jr., editor. Washington, D. C.: 118 C Street, S.E. 24 pp. $5.00 per year; $1.50 single issue.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Chartered by Act of Congress, public law 408, 81st Congress, "to further the policy enunciated in the Historic Sites Act (49 Stat. 666) and to facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance or interest and providing a national trust for historic preservation."

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